

The Mission of the Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center : *to promote environmental education and the conservation of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.*

We modify and adjust each program to meet your grade level. If you are interested in scheduling a program, please contact Pam Steinhaus at

(815) 273-2732. ext 16

Please schedule at least three weeks in advance, however it is highly recommended to schedule two to three months in advance.



Directions:



From Savanna (4 total miles):

- 1: Head SOUTH on Rt 84 - 3.5 miles
- 2: Turn RIGHT (SW) onto Riverview Rd
- .5 miles

From Fulton (12.5 total miles):

- 1: From Intersection of 136 and Hwy 84 (North)
- 12 miles
- 2: Turn LEFT (SW) onto Riverview Rd - .5 miles

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service

Ingersoll Wetlands Learning Center

Educator's Guide



Upper Mississippi River
National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

7:30—4:00

7071 Riverview Rd
Thomson, IL 61285

Phone: 815-273-2732 ext 16

Fax: 815-273-2960

E-mail: Pam_Steinhaus@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/midwest/savanna

Programs available for the 2006—2007 School Year

Habitat- What's that -What is a wild animal and what does it need to survive. Describe basic life requirements of all living things. Gr. PreK-3 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Who's been here? - Students will be investigators to discover animal tracks and signs that call Upper Miss home. Gr. 1-5 (F, W, Sp, Su)

What makes a Bird a Bird? - Students will learn characteristics that set birds apart from mammals and reptiles. Gr. K-5 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Birding 101 - How do can you identify one bird from the next? Students will learn the basics about birds and practice using field guides and binoculars to identify local species. Gr. 3-12 (F, Sp, Su)

Pond Exploration - What critters live in wetlands? Students will use pond nets, hand lenses, microscopes and field guides to study aquatic life. Gr. 2-12 (F, Sp, Su)

Insect Safari - What is a bug? Identify insect anatomy and function. Collect and classify grassland insects using nets and field guides. Gr. 1-6 (F, Sp, Su)

Raptors - Learn all about hawks, falcons and eagles. Students will be able to dissect an owl pellet and discover what they eat. Gr. 4-12 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Bald Eagle - The program is similar to the raptor program; however it includes a trip to the lock and dam to view eagles. Gr. 4-12 (W)

Discover the Wonders of Wetlands - Learn why wetlands are more than a nuisance. Students will make their own watershed. Gr. 3-6 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Frogs and Toads - Learn all about the world of frogs and toads (at least those that live in Illinois). Students will be able to make their own frog to take home. Gr. K-5 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Waterfowl ID - Do you know the difference between dabblers and divers? Students will learn how to identify ducks by using field guides and keys. Gr. 3-12 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Endangered Species - Why should we save endangered species? Learn about why species made the endangered species list and what is being done to remove them. Gr. 3-12 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Winter Survival Animal Style - Learn how animals and plants survive the winter. Gr. 2-5 (F, W, Sp)

Fish and Mussel Identification - Learn the basics in identifying the fish and native mussels that live in the Mississippi River. Gr. 4-12 (F, W, Sp, Su)

Life of a Monarch - Explore the life of a monarch from a caterpillar to a butterfly. If you're lucky, you maybe able to tag and release one. Gr. 1-5 (F, W, Sp, Su) Late summer and early fall is the best time for an opportunity to tag monarchs.

Basic Canoeing - Experience the wonders of the backwaters as you learn basic canoeing skills. Class is limited to 16 people. Gr. 4-adult (F, Sp, Su)

Explore the Refuge on the Blue Goose - An adventure on the *Upper Miss* Refuge is awaiting you on the Blue Goose. A 30 foot pontoon boat is available for students to do various sampling procedures (invertebrates, water quality, etc) or just sit back and learn about the river and the wildlife that call it home.

Carrying Capacity is limited depending on age of group and activity:

General tour

Limited to (25) K-3 students and 3 adults

(20) Gr. 4 * Adult

Sampling expeditions

Limited to 12 * 14 people.

Life jackets are provided for all passengers. Passengers are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing for this adventure. Passengers have been known to get wet due to waves and wind. *Tours maybe cancelled due to high winds.*

(F=Fall, W=Winter, Sp=Spring, Su=Summer)

